IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sliding bearing ~~wherein~~ comprising an overlay, ~~which consists~~ consisting of at least one solid lubricant and a binder resin, said overlay covers an aluminum-alloy bearing layer bonded on backing metal, and ~~characterized in that~~ said overlay consists of an upper layer comprising said ~~layer, which contains the~~ solid lubricant ~~essentially~~ consisting essentially of MoS_2, and a lower layer, ~~which consists~~ consisting of one or both of at least one solid lubricant and at least one hard additive, ~~(when~~ wherein when said ~~the~~ solid lubricant of ~~the~~ said lower layer is MoS_2, its content is relatively lower than that of ~~the~~ said upper layer ~~layer)~~.

Claim 2 (Original): A sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein the MoS_2 content of the upper layer is from 40 to 95 mass %.

Claim 3 (Original): A sliding bearing according to claim 2, wherein the content of the solid lubricant and hard additive of said lower layer is from 30 to 85 mass %.

Claim 4 (Original): A sliding bearing according to claim 3, wherein said lower layer contains only the solid lubricant.

Claim 5 (Original): A sliding bearing according to claim 4, wherein said solid lubricant is MoS_2.

Claim 6 (Original): A sliding bearing according to claim 5, wherein the MoS_2 content of said upper layer is more than the MoS_2 content of said lower layer by 10 mass % or more.

Claim 7 (Original): A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein the hard additive of said lower layer is at least one selected from the group consisting of Si_2N_4, SiO_2, SiC and Al_2O_3.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein said upper layer consists of two or more sub-layers having different MoS_2 content of the upper sub-layer is more than the MoS_2 content of the lower sub-layer.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein said lower layer consists of two or more sub-layers having different additive amount.